

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1-5 and 9. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-5 and 9, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-5 and 9.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 19-27 are pending; Claims 1-18 having been canceled and Claims 19-27 having been added by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings, Abstract, Title and disclosure were objected to for various informalities and Claims 1-18 were objected to as informal. Claims 1, 2, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Ohashi (JP2001-215841A). Claims 3-9 and 12-18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

The drawings, Abstract, Title and specification have been amended to overcome the informalities set forth.

With regard to the drawings, Figure 1 has been amended to add reference numerals 17Y, 17C, 17M, and 17K; Figure 2 has been amended to delete reference numerals 35 and 35a; Figure 3 has been amended to delete one of the two reference numerals 49; Figure 4 has been amended to replace reference numeral 10 with reference numeral 1; Figure 5 has been amended to replace reference numeral 101 with reference numeral 104; and Figure 9(a) has been amended to replace reference numeral 101 with reference numeral 104. These amendments should obviate the Examiner's objections to the drawings and the objections to the drawings is therefore respectfully requested to be withdrawn. It is noted that the Examiner has objected to Figure 2 of the drawings as including reference character 20 not mentioned in the description. Reference character 20 cannot be found in Figure 2. Clarification is requested.

The Abstract has been amended to delete "comprises" terminology objected to by the Examiner. Also, the length of the Abstract has been reduced to be less than 150 words.

Withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested in view of these changes.

The Title has been amended to be descriptive of the claimed invention. Withdrawal of the objection to the Title is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended as follows: page 12, line 21 “10” has been replaced by “1”; page 13, lines 5 and 6, “1B” has been replaced by “1b”; page 15, line 3, “3” has been replaced by “S” ; page 15, line 8, “10” has been replaced by “1” and on pages 15, 16 and 24-36, “101y” has been replaced by “101Y”, “101” has been replaced by “104”, “103” has been replaced by “102” at each occurrence. Finally, on page 27, line 8, “transfer” has been replaced by “fixing”. In view of these amendments to the specification, the objections thereto are respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Ohashi is respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to the claims and the following discussion.

Claims 1-18 have been cancelled and replaced by new Claims 19-27.

Claim 19 recites a separation plate including a guide part wherein a “plurality of notch parts are provided in the guide part” and wherein “one of the notch parts in a center part of the guide part has a width greater than a width of one of the notch parts in an end part of the guide part.” This structure is described in the specification at page 28, lines 2-14 and is seen in Figure 6 of the drawings, for example. One of the possible advantages of providing notches is that the amount of heat of the head end part transferred to the guide part is limited, thereby preventing moisture condensation even when the head end part rises to a higher temperature. The guide part of Ohashi has no notches, much less notches of different widths as claimed.

Claim 21 recites a separation plate including a guide part and “a head end part provided in the guide part via a heat insulating material.” This structure is supported in the specification at page 28, line 15 through page 29, line 1. Again, one of the possible advantages of the provision of a heat insulating material is to limit the amount of heat transferred from the head end part to the guide part, thereby preventing moisture condensation. The guide part of Ohashi has no such heat insulating material.

Claim 22 recites a separation plate including a guide part and a head end part wherein “a notch part is provided in the guide part; and a vapor receiving part is provided inside the notch part.” This structure is supported in the specification at page 34, line 14 through page 35, line 21, for example. The vapor receiving part is seen in Figure 6 of the drawings at numeral 105, for example. Again, the notch can provide the heat insulating effect as described above with respect to claim 19. A further possible advantage in the provision of a vapor receiving part is that any water formed by condensation will be prevented from dropping on the head end part, thereby preventing paper jamming due to water not adhering to the head end part, for example. Clearly, Ohashi does not contemplate such structure. Not only is a notch in the guide part of Ohashi not taught, a vapor receiving part is nowhere to be found in the device of Ohashi.

In view of the failure of Ohashi to teach the limitations claimed as described above, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

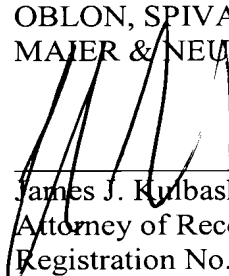
Dependent Claims 20 and 23-27 are patentable for at least the reasons Claims 19, 21 and 22 are patentable as described above and allowance of these claims is also respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/586,399  
Reply to Office Action of December 10, 2007.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No.: 293468US3PCT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION: Masahiko SATOH, et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/586,399

GAU: 2852

FILED: July 17, 2006

EXAMINER: CHEN, S.

FOR: FIXING DEVICE AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS USING THE SAME

**LETTER SUBMITTING REPLACEMENT DRAWING SHEET(S)**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Alexandria, VA 22313

SIR:

Responsive to the below indicated communication, the following drawing sheets are submitted herewith:

☒ 4 Replacement Drawing Sheets ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ New Drawing Sheets  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_ Annotated Drawing Sheets

☒ Official Action dated December 10, 2007  
☐ Notice of Allowance/Issue Fee dated \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Other dated \_\_\_\_\_

The changes and/or modifications made include the following:

Figure 1 has been amended to add reference numerals 17Y, 17C, 17M, and 17K; Figure 2 has been amended to delete reference numerals 35 and 35a; Figure 3 has been amended to delete one of the two reference numerals 49; Figure 4 has been amended to replace reference numeral 10 with reference numeral 1; Figure 5 has been amended to replace reference numeral 101 with reference numeral 104; and Figure 9(a) has been amended to replace reference numeral 101 with reference numeral 104.

Respectfully Submitted,

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